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HUNTINGTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – John Pinkney, 41, of Huntington pleaded guilty yesterday before United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers to distribution of cocaine base. On June 30, 2010, Pinkney admitted to selling a \$20 rock of crack cocaine to an undercover officer. The sale took place on the 1700 block of 9th Avenue in Huntington. On various occasions, Pinkney has acted as a middle man for others in the sale of crack cocaine and he also admitted to obtaining crack for resale from an individual on at least 25 occasions. The defendant also admitted distributing approximately 12 ounces of crack cocaine at a business located in the Huntington area. Pinkney is responsible for at least 150 grams of cocaine base but less than 500 grams.

Pinkney faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine when he is sentenced on June 13, 2011.

The investigation was conducted by the Huntington Violent Crimes and Drug Task Force. Assistant United States Attorney Greg McVey is in charge of the prosecution.

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MASON COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – Dennis Lester Barker, 60, of Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County, West Virginia pleaded guilty yesterday before United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers to cultivation of marijuana. On September 9, 2009, members of the West Virginia State Police were conducting aerial marijuana eradication operations in southern Mason County. Upon flying over Barker's Gallipolis Ferry residence, officers observed several marijuana plants growing in a garden plot behind the residence. Law enforcement ground units followed up on the aerial search and seized approximately 165 mature plants from the defendant's property. Barker waived his Miranda rights and admitted to growing the plants for both his personal use and for compensation.

Barker faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine when he is sentenced on June 6, 2011.

The investigation was conducted by the West Virginia State Police. Assistant United States Attorney Josh Hanks is in charge of the prosecution.

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CHARLESTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Colin M. Webb, 21, of Charleston pleaded guilty yesterday before United States District Judge John T. Copenhaver Jr., to possession with the intent to distribute five or more grams of cocaine base. On March 17, 2009, agents from the Metro Drug Unit executed a search warrant at the defendant's Elaine Drive residence in Rand, Kanawha County, West Virginia. During the execution the search warrant, agents seized a quantity of cocaine base from Webb's bedroom. Following his arrest, Webb admitted ownership of and his intent to sell the cocaine base that was seized from his residence. Testing at the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory confirmed that the substance was cocaine base, weighing 17.23 grams.

Webb faces a mandatory five to 40 years in prison when he is sentenced on June 2, 2011.

The Metro Drug Unit conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney John Frail is handling the prosecution.

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